

Application No. 09/666,194
Amendment dated: January 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2003

c.) Remarks

Claims 1-25 and 27-47 are pending in this application. Claims 15, 29, and 42 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove.

Relative to paragraph 3, new corrected drawings were required because the drawings contained "hand-drawn reference numbers and figures." The Summary page indicated that only drawings filed on 9/21/2000 and 11/13/2001 were considered.

On 05/03/2001, new drawings were received in the Office. This is confirmed by reference to the PAIR system. Applicant encloses a copy of the date stamped drawings as printed from PAIR along with the document list. These drawings address the basis for the objection. If Examiner wishes these drawings to be refiled, please contact the undersigned. In any event, Applicant requests consideration of these previously filed drawings.

Claims 15, 29 and 42 have been amended in light of the helpful suggestions. These changes should remove the basis for the objection.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 15-19, 27-35, 37, 38, and 41-47 were rejected as either being anticipated by the Korevaar patent or obvious over it. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The rejections rely on the fact that filter 58 of Korevaar is tunable. This is not the case. The Korevaar filter is not tunable, but used only for blocking background light. The Korevaar patent neither shows nor suggests use or inclusion of a tunable filter.


Moreover, claim 1, for example, requires "detecting a back-reflection from the lens and/or the tunable filter element". In contrast, the Korevaar patent describes detecting the image of the fiber 62

Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2004

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Image File Wrapper for Application No.: 09/666,194					
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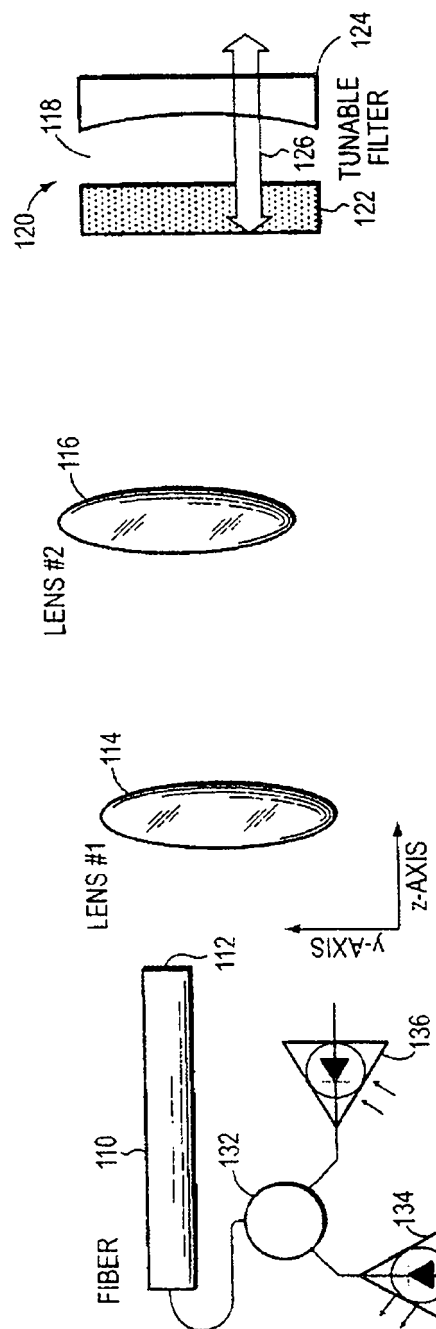


FIG. 1

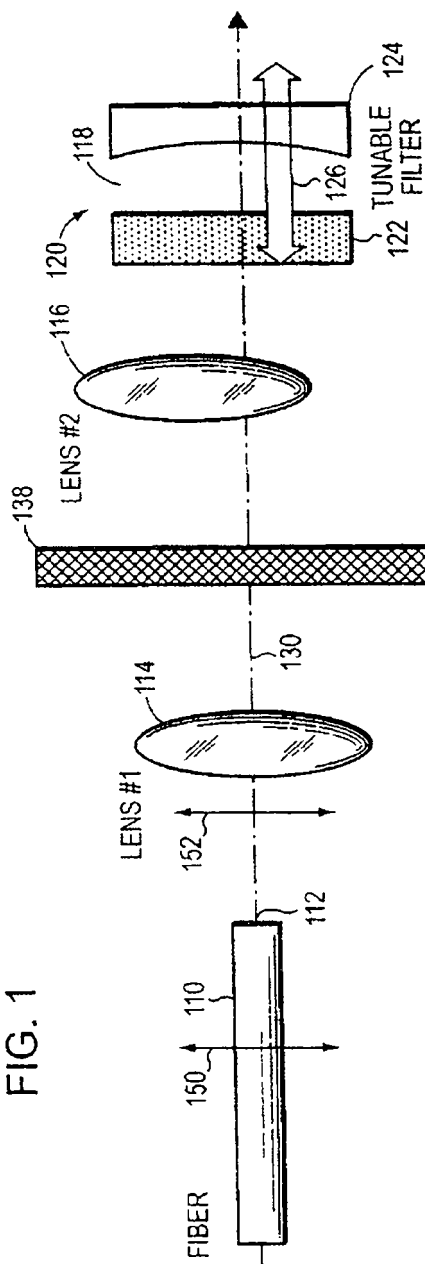


FIG. 3

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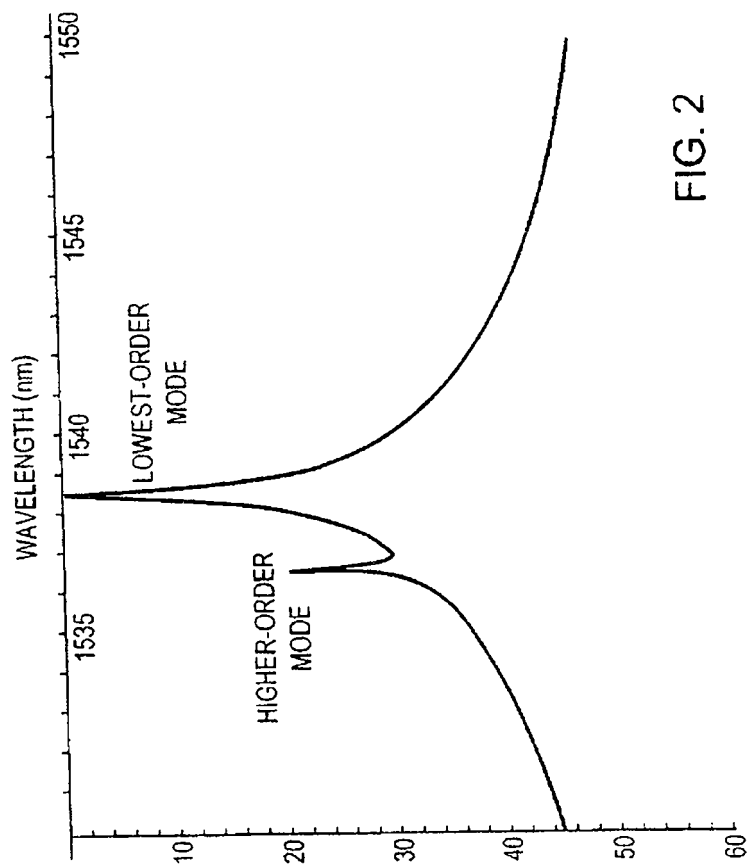


FIG. 2

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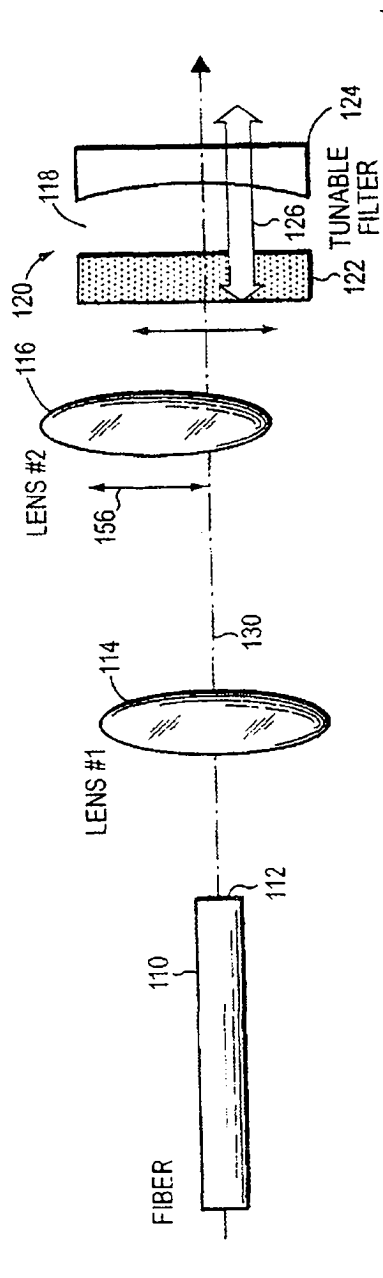


FIG. 4

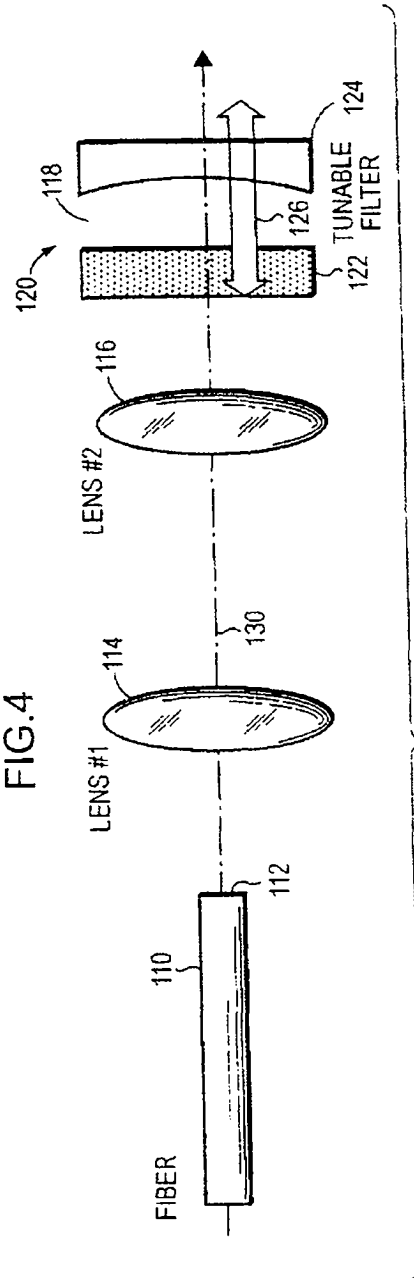


FIG. 5

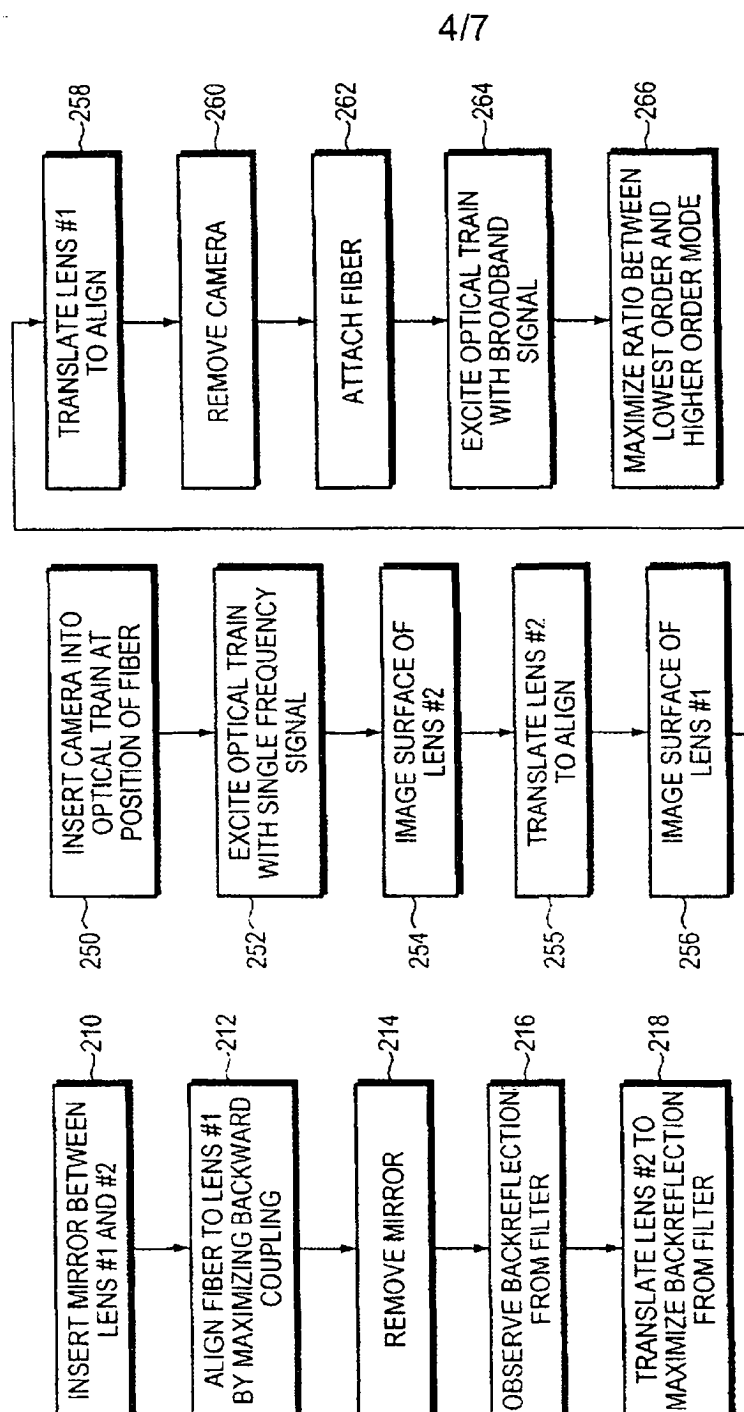


FIG. 8

FIG. 6

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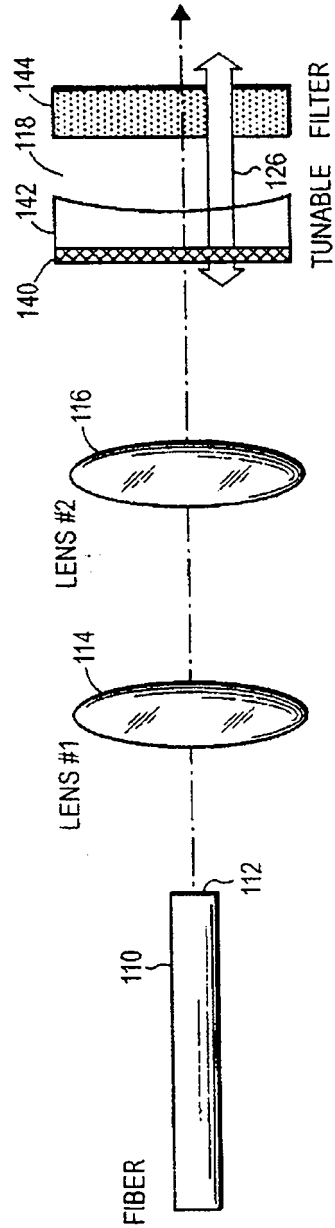
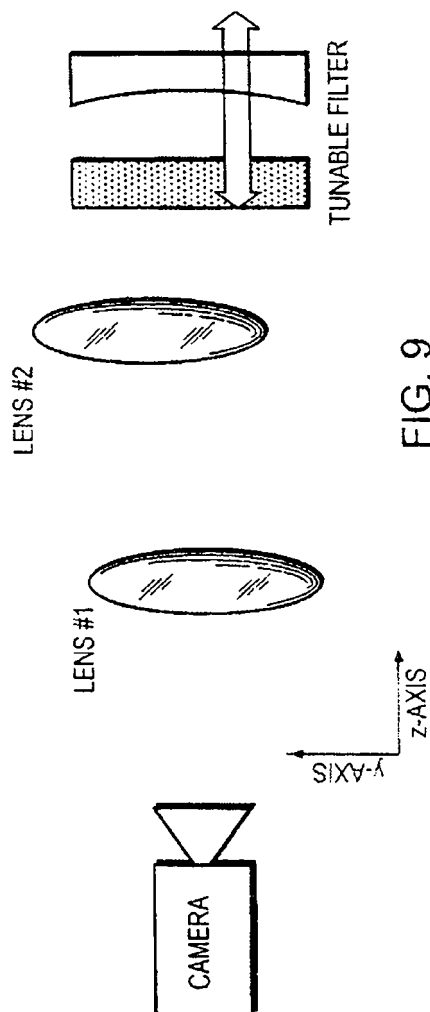


FIG.7

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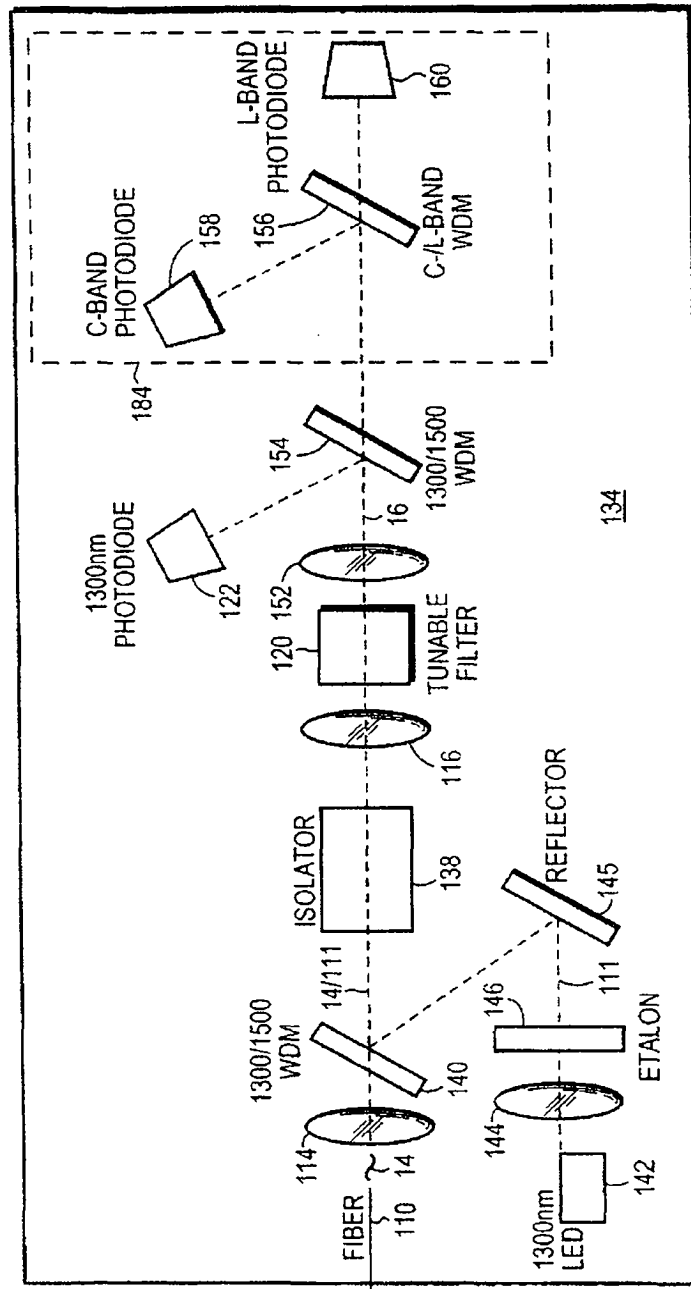


FIG. 10